

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to the isolation and use of super-infective, tumor-specific vectors that are
5 strains of parasites including, but not limited to bacteria, fungi and protists. In certain embodiments the parasites include, but are not limited to, the bacterium *Salmonella* spp., such as *Salmonella typhimurium*, the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* and the protozoan *Leishmania amazonensis*.
10 In other embodiments, the present invention is concerned with the isolation of super-infective, tumor-specific, suicide gene-containing strains of parasites for use in treatment of solid tumors.

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